



McGregor W. Scott
United States Attorney
Eastern District of California

Sacramento
501 I. Street, Ste 10-100
Sacramento CA 95814
Tel:(916) 554-2700
TTY:(916) 554-2855

NEWS RELEASE

Fresno
1130 O. Street, Rm 3654
Fresno, CA 93721
Tel:(559) 498-7272
TTY:(559) 498-7499

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 17, 2005

Contact: Patty Pontello, 916-554-2706
<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae>

**SACRAMENTO POSTAL CARRIER INDICTED FOR STEALING OVER \$100,000
USING DOZENS OF DEBIT CARDS SHE STOLE FROM THE MAIL**

SACRAMENTO-- United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that a federal grand jury returned a 30-count indictment charging U.S. Postal Service employee VIENGKEO VICKY PATHAMMAVONG, 33, of Sacramento, with stealing dozens of bank debit cards from the mail and racking up over \$100,000 in transactions using the debit cards.

This case is the product of an extensive investigation by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Camil A. Skipper, who is prosecuting the case, the indictment alleges that PATHAMMAVONG, a rural route carrier, stole at least 28 debit cards from the mail from January 2005 through October 2005. The indictment further alleges that PATHAMMAVONG effected transactions with the stolen debit cards obtaining over \$100,000 in cash and goods. Fraudulent charges to individual cards are alleged to range from \$1,000 to over \$16,000. (The federal law under which the 28 counts of fraud is brought applies to access devices such as credit cards and debit cards, which incurred charges of \$1,000 or more in any one-year period. Any card which incurred charges of less than \$1,000 is not covered by this statute.)

If convicted, the maximum penalty under federal law for each of the 28 counts of access device fraud is 15 years imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000. The indictment also charges PATHAMMAVONG with possessing fifteen or more unauthorized access devices and theft of mail by a postal service employee for which the maximum penalties are 10 years and 5 years imprisonment, respectively, and a fine of \$250,000.

The charges are only allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

###